

REMARKS

Claims 9-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 20-27 have been added.

Support for the recitation that the rubber is a "latex" can be found in the last paragraph of page 7. Support for new claim 20 can be found in Example 1 on page 17. Support for new claim 21 can be found in Example 4 on pages 20-21. Support for new claims 22-27 can be found in claims 14-17. No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen (Reg. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

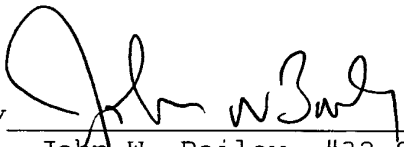
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for

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any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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JWB/GMD/jmb

Attachments: Version To Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

9. (Amended) A process for the production of a graft-copolymerized natural rubber latex which comprises deproteinizing natural rubber latex and then graft-copolymerizing the natural rubber latex.

10. (Amended) A process for the production of an epoxidized natural rubber latex which comprises deproteinizing natural rubber latex and then epoxidizing the natural rubber latex.

11. (Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber latex has a nitrogen content of less than 0.10 % by weight.

12. (Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber latex has a nitrogen content of less than 0.10 % by weight.

13. (Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber latex is graft copolymerized with an organic compound having an unsaturated bond selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, acrylic acid, methyl methacrylate, methyl acrylate, 2-hydroxyethylmethacrylate, acrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, styrene, acrylamide and vinylpyrrolidone.

15. (Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber latex has a nitrogen content of less than 0.05 % by weight.

16. (Amended) The process according to claim 9, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber latex has a nitrogen content of less than 0.02 % by weight.

17. (Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the epoxidation step has an epoxidation rate which is sufficient to produce an epoxidized deproteinized natural rubber latex having an epoxidation ratio of 26.0% or more in 5 hours.

18. (Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber latex has a nitrogen content of less than 0.05 % by weight.

19. (Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the deproteinized natural rubber latex has a nitrogen content of less than 0.02 % by weight.

Claims 20-27 have been added.